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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/875,916

06/08/2001

Takeshi Okada

392.1717

7079

21171

7590

08/01/2005

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EXAMINER

HANSEN, COLBY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,916

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Examiner

Colby Hansen

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 12 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 4-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mauletti (US Pat. 5,606,235).

Mauletti (US Pat. 5,606,235) discloses a joint structure of a robot, comprising: a speed reducer 54,55 comprising: a cylindrical casing 50, a rotating member 47 rotatably supported on the casing through a first bearing (left-most bearings as seen in figure 7) and having a hollow in the center thereof (about axis 3), and a gear speed reducing mechanism 56 arranged on the casing for rotation through a second bearing (right-most bearings as seen in figure 7) and having a hollow in the center thereof (about axis 3); a first member 11 fixed to the casing of the speed reducer and having a hollow in the center thereof (to allow input of torque from motor and speed reducer); a second member 33 (includes bearings 46) fixed to the rotating member of the speed reducer and having a hollow in the center thereof (inner arm portion that directly touches bearings 46); and a motor 51 fixed to the second member so that the output shaft thereof extends in the direction parallel to the central axis of the speed reducer toward the gear speed reducing mechanism of the speed reducer (fig. 7), the motor 51 having a shaft 51a which is shifted with respect to a center of rotation of the rotating member of the speed reducer 54,55, and the center of rotation of the rotating member being within the hollow (figs. 4 & 7); wherein a robot joint is constituted between the first member and the second member in a manner such that the gear speed reducing mechanism of the speed reducer is actuated by the rotation of the

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output shaft of the motor to make the second member rock (the motor is bi-directional allowing for rocking) with respect to the first member.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 and 12 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that Mauletti (US Pat. 5,606,235) does not disclose the second member 33 (including bearings 46) and the rotating member 47 are not directly fixed to one another. Examiner disagrees given that the second member includes bearings 46 are directly in contact with the rotating member and hold the rotating member rotatably fixed relative to the second member, as broadly recited.

Applicant also argues that casing 50 is not fixed to first member 11. Examiner disagrees as the lid is rotatably fixed relative to the first member 11 by way of rotating member 47 and second member 33, as broadly recited.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is (703) 872-9306. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate

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Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on _____

(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please

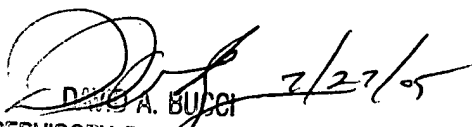
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do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Colby Hansen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday from 7:30 PM to 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci, can be reached on (571) 272-7099. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


DAVID A. BUCCI 2/27/05
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Colby M. Hansen

 7/25/05
Patent Examiner